

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 406

By Kane

A RESOLUTION to recognize Doris Maxine Anderson Felts, the first female stock car racer in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly recognize those individuals who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Doris Maxine Anderson Felts, who holds the distinction of being the first female stock car racer in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, as the first female stock car racer, she diversified gender roles in her community and this State; and

WHEREAS, born to parents Charles and Pearl Simmons Anderson on July 2, 1934, Doris Maxine Anderson was raised to have a strong will; her sense of independence and adventure was encouraged by her father, who gave her a twenty-two-caliber rifle for her twelfth birthday and taught her marksmanship by throwing pennies in the air for her to shoot; and

WHEREAS, she grew up in Cheatham County, where she met her future high school sweetheart and husband, Curt Felts; they attended Mount Zion Elementary School and Ashland City High School together; and

WHEREAS, after high school, Mr. Felts joined the United States Army and served in the military police division while also working as a judo instructor; and

WHEREAS, in January of 1956, one year to the day after he left the Army, Haskle Curtis Felts married Doris Maxine Anderson; and

WHEREAS, Maxine Felts discovered her passion for racing when the couple attended a stock car race in their new 1957 Chevrolet; following the race, people gathered to show off their cars, and on this particular evening, Mrs. Felts decided to join in; and

WHEREAS, she entered the male-dominated world of drag racing against protests over her gender and eventually gained approval in the sport, demonstrating that women can excel in men's sports; and

WHEREAS, during her racing career, she drove a 1957 and a 1959 Chevrolet and won numerous drag races at Old Hickory race track and Union Hill drag strip; and

WHEREAS, away from the race track, Maxine Felts worked for the Tennessee Department of Labor for more than twenty years, and Mr. Felts worked for the Tennessee Department of Transportation after retiring from private printing; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Felts's love for adventure encompassed more than racing; she also rode motorcycles, was an excellent marksman, and was a high diver; and

WHEREAS, in addition, she is an avid animal lover, enjoys touring the country in motor homes, and loves painting sculptures; and

WHEREAS, Maxine Felts epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to acknowledge the contributions Maxine Felts has made to her fellow citizens and this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize Doris Maxine Anderson Felts, the first female stock car racer in Tennessee, commend her contributions to this State, and extend to her our best wishes for continued success in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.